CLAIM(S)

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for producing a compressed video bitstream that includes compressed video data for a plurality of frames from data that specifies a single still image, the method comprising the steps of:

5   fetching the data for the still image;

encoding the data for the still image into data for an intra ("I") frame;

storing the encoded I frame data;

assembling the compressed video bitstream by appropriately

10 combining data for:

at least a single copy of the stored I frame;

at least one null frame; and

various a headers required for decodability of the compressed video bitstream;

15 whereby decoding of the compressed video bitstream produces frames of video that do not appear to pulse visually.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein:

the assembled compressed video bitstream may be decoded in accordance with the MPEG-1 standard; and

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the various headers assembled into the compressed video

5   bitstream include:

a sequence_header beginning the compressed video bitstream;

at a beginning of group of pictures, a group_start_code;

for each encoded frame, a picture_start_code; and

10   a sequence_end_code ending the compressed video bitstream.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein:

the assembled compressed video bitstream may be decoded in accordance with the MPEG-2 standard; and

the various headers assembled into the compressed video

5   bitstream include:

a sequence_header beginning the compressed video bitstream;

for each encoded frame:

a picture_header; and

10   a picture_coding_extension; and

a sequence_end_code ending the compressed video ~~bitstream.~~

4.   The method of claim 1 wherein parameters employed in encoding the data for the still image produce an amount of data for

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the I frame that approaches, but remains less than, storage capacity of a buffer memory included in a decoder that stores the

5 compressed video bitstream.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein null frames assembled into the compressed video bitstream also include bitstream stuffing whereby the compressed video bitstream may be transmitted at a pre-established bitrate.